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FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2011

Marine man

Model boats tickle Alex Gray's fancy
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Hit maker

Finger Eleven set to play Canal Days
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Brilliant strokes

Painter finds inspiration in nature
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Rates need

lowering?



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INPORT NEWS

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■ SIPHON

Vetoed bill
good news
for Lake Erie

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Lake Erie may have dodged a bullet.

Ohio Gov. John R. Kasich recently vetoed a bill that would have allowed individual businesses to each siphon nearly 19 million litres (five million gallons) of water out of Lake Erie every day without state approval. It also would have allowed the businesses to siphon an additional 7.5 million litres from creeks and rivers into the lake's watersheds.

Colin Nutt, a Welland truck driver, who has taken a keen interest in the issue, breathed a sigh of relief when he heard about the veto.

"It's good news," said Nutt, who used to live along the lakeshore and said he hopes to once again.

see LAKE ERIE | page 2

■ HELP: Police and bystanders help man

Seeing a need for understanding



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Niagara Regional Police Sgt. Dave Weeks looks over a document with Port Colborne resident Brent Kovach that explains what to do if Kovach has an epileptic seizure. Weeks assisted Kovach last week after he had a seizure outside on Clarence St.

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — When Brent Kovach came to, he had no memory of what had happened.

He had a cut on his head and scrapes on his knees and elbows.

Kovach had a seizure — that much he knew.

But that was not uncommon for the 49-year-old who has been living with epilepsy all his life.

It was a series of phone calls after his blackout period that raised confusion about just what happened recently on Clarence St.

It began as a routine day for Sgt. David Weeks of the Niagara Regional Police, but that quickly changed.

He was inside a business on Clarence St., when someone came in to call for assistance — there was a man on the ground down the street and he needed help.

As Weeks neared, he could tell the man was having a seizure and immediately called for an ambulance.

see POLICE | page 2

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portraits

■ HOBBIES: Alex Gray hoping to share his lifelong passion with others through a new club

Marine modelling floats his boat

DAVE JOHNSON
Import News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Alex Gray was eight years old when he attended his first model boat show. He remembers seeing the boats on the water and being fascinated by them.

That fascination led to him building his first remote-controlled model boat in 1962-63 and a lifelong passion for the hobby.

"I've been building them for the past 50 years. I just love to build and love to sail the boats," said the former cabinet maker who moved to Port Colborne last year and also loves electronics.

"I love to work with wood and fine details. It's a very relaxing hobby and helps take your mind off any frustrations or problems."

Gray's pursuit has led to a fully-outfitted basement workshop.

He has tugs, jet skis, jet boats, Formula One racing boats, sailboats and even submarines ready to go in the water and operate.

There's even a shark's fin submarine.

Gray said the fin has been seen on TV a number of times when television stations covered a model boat show in Toronto.

"Cameramen always seem to focus on it."

One of the more interesting model boats he has is a Springer tug, which he named Jerry. The tug has a body that is standard, but the wheelhouse is completely unrecognizable. One wheelhouse is the standard type, but two others are definitely not what a person would find on a regular tug.

There's a caveman scene and another which features an outhouse, complete with a person sitting on a toilet with the door open. Gray likes to put little touches of humour like that into his creations.

With 20 plus remote con-

trol boats, not to mention remote control airplanes, sitting in his workshop, Gray said his hobby is not an expensive one.

"You can go out and buy one that's ready to run for \$50. You can buy hobby-grade kits that run around \$150, it all depends on how much you want to spend."

Gray said the price of kits has gone down over the years and the electronics involved have become less expensive, smaller and more powerful.

"The electronics are much more advanced."

Some electric motors will drive boats up to nearly 100 km/h on the water. Gray even has a remote-controlled dragster that will run at 160 km/h.

Gray is looking to share the hobby and invite others in the city in with the formation of a group called Port Colborne Marine Modelers. He hopes to attract people of all ages to the hobby and club and will create a junior division for younger members.

"I have five people interested so far and would like to have a minimum of at least 20 people."

The club will be open to model boaters and people with display boats. He has put flyers around Niagara hobby

shops, at Port Colborne Public Library and other locations in the city.

"I'm hoping everything and the club should be open to everyone," said Gray, adding people of all skills are welcome and there will be workshops, show-and-tell competitions and public displays.

When he first came to Port Colborne, Gray spoke with Mayor Vance Badaway about forming a club in the former meeting room at city hall could be used by the club to hold meetings.

Gray hopes to be at Canal Days to spread the word, but is recovering from an injury that may keep him from the event.

During the festival, model boats are on display on the grounds of Port Colborne's Historical and Maritime Museum. The boats come from the Great Lakes Model Boating Association, of which Gray is a member.

For more information on Port Colborne Marine Modelers, contact Gray at pcmm.bell.net, call him between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 905-834-9758 or join the Yahoo group he created at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pcmarinemodelers>.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
ABOVE: Alex Gray talks about some of the remote control boats he has in his basement workshop. Gray is trying to get members for his new club Port Colborne Marine Modelers.

LEFT: This remote control jet ski is just one of the remote control boats Alex Gray has in his basement workshop. Gray is trying to get members for his new club Port Colborne Marine Modelers.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Alex Gray holds a Formula One boat as he stands amongst his many remote control boats and planes in his basement workshop. Gray is trying to get members for his new club Port Colborne Marine Modelers.



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Ken Koyama, publisher, general manager

Dave Johnson, Inport News senior reporter



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ourview

Right direction

Wainfleet is headed in the right direction when it comes to taking care of leaking/broken septic systems along the Lake Erie shoreline.

Last week, Greg Wulsman, the township's director of operations, presented a report on the on-site sewage system program, also known as the "find, repair, replace" program.

While the document was only for council's information and to seek direction, it is a positive step forward in finding a solution to the problem.

It is the township's answer to Niagara Region's proposed Big Pipe, which was turned down by council. The Big Pipe could have seen a massive water diversion in the boil water advisory area of the township. That area is the everything south of the Grand Harry Trail, a former rail line, and from the Port Colborne to Halton County border. The cost of the proposed pipeline was one of the reasons council rejected the idea. Many residents were also opposed to the plan.

The proposal put forward by Wulsman, with council input, could see septic system inspections in the boil water advisory area carried out every three years and mandatory inspections when property is transferred from one party to another. Inspections will only be carried out in the boil water advisory area, the area that needs to be addressed and fixed. It is a good start to solving the issue.

The program should kick off this fall, once council discusses it further, and will see it rolled out in two stages. The first stage being implementation of the regulating and enforcement of Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code (regular permit applications, planning department comments, real estate inspections, and special requests/complaints). That stage would be Wainfleet basically being taken over duties now handled by Niagara Region. The second stage would be implementation of a mandatory inspection program.

If problems are found, then homeowners would be responsible for fixing up their septic systems.

We're told that some residents will have a hard time trying to fix or repair faulty systems, but the cost will be much less than it would have been required to hook into a pipeline.

The cost of the pipeline, while never set, was estimated at \$100 million. That cost would have been borne by regional taxpayers and township residents. Wainfleet residents would have had to pay varying amounts to hook into the system and the cost could have made some sell their homes.

We're sure the find, repair, replace program will help solve most of the problems in the boil water advisory area and hope to see it get underway soon.

readers'views

Youth not the problem in Port Colborne

There have been several articles/discussions concerning the Canal Promenade in Port Colborne, the compass area on West St. and the teenagers that hang out there.

I have worked in the education field for many years and have owned a local business in Port Colborne. I know many of the teens who hang out at the compass both from my classrooms and several of them were great customers. I have never had any issues with any of them at any time.

I do understand the concerns of local business owners in the area. Sometimes there are a lot of teens hanging in the area and I suppose they do get loud and litter outside.

Council recently passed a motion or bylaw to prohibit the use of skateboards in this area. I think it is time council looks at the real issue; the issue is teens have no place in our city to hang out and skate or just be kids. They congregate here because its central to the whole city and there are services there for their use. These teens spend money at the candy store and other businesses getting refreshments.

It's time the city stepped up and built a place for teens to go hang out. A skate park with an outdoor pool would be a good idea.

Drive by the Welland skate park or the outdoor pool at Maple Park and see how many teens are there. We don't see articles about the locals wanting them gone.

I have been by the compass late at night while riding my bike and this is where some locals hang out and drink.

COLUMN

Music lovers treated to local talent

LINDSAY COSTELLO
Special to InPort News

Local musicians and music lovers had something to sing about last weekend as dozens of area artists gathered to rock out at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park.

Ubergroovy co-ordinator Rita Smith enlisted the help of Ben Andreas, a Wellington artist and musician, to assist the youth group in putting together Rock in the Park, a free, outdoor concert.

This was the first year Andreas was involved with the event and

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Some may be teens but most are older. These drunks are more of an issue than the daytime teens will ever be.

There have also been two daytime fights that I am aware of recently. Both occurred when a drunk adult came out of a local establishment and started bad mouthing the kids and an argument or fight erupted. Who's fault is this?

You cannot blame all the problems at Welland. There has been a lot of money spent on Main St. and even more being spent on the Wellness Center. If it is time we spend some money on the youth of Port Colborne.

Todd Klacko
Port Colborne

Some clean energy research?

Hi Doris, The only bit I found vaguely factual was that "... Australia hopes to get 33% of its energy needs from wind power by 2020 ... 'Hope' springs eternal. And the 'hope' is based on the wind, as well as solar industries, having their profit subsidized by uncollected taxes, not only yours and mine Doris, but those of our children and even our grandchildren. Without those tax subsidies the alternated energy industry would collapse because they are entirely uneconomical, unreliable and potentially dangerous."

As to actual facts? From the L.E.S.O website at 9:30am this morning, 15 July, 2011.

Total generation capacity in Ontario — 34,882 MW
Total capacity available in Ontario at 9 a.m. — 25,818 MW
Demand in Ontario at 9 a.m. — 16,671

MW

Total capacity available in Ontario (Wind) — 1334 MW(3.8%)

Total capacity available in Ontario (Other — including solar) — 122 MW(0.3%)

Wind energy contribution to Ontario at 9 a.m., July 15 — 80 MW
0.3% of Capacity available, 0.5% of demand at 9 a.m., July 15.

But I am sure you will give me the actual answers I was hoping for?

It isn't research to accept the wind energy industries statistics without question. The rated capacity of industrial wind turbines are what they can theoretically generate under ideal wind conditions. Even the wind energy companies will agree they expect no more than 30% efficiency and all studies so far suggest no more than 20% is more likely. (Demand says 20 years and more, when the Danish government stopped building industrial wind turbines on shore because of growing public opposition.)

And the Lowbanks figures sound very impressive but you failed to state exactly what they actually contribute to the grid at any given time, and just what economic benefit the Lowbanks community have received from them? Are their hydro bills less than Welland's?

If they can supply 3,000 households with electricity industrial wind turbines why are the forecasts for these machines in the tens of thousands to supply just 20% of Ontario's energy needs by 2030?

And of course, the kicker... where is the other 80% of Ontario's energy needs coming from in 2030?

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

was responsible for organizing the musicians who would be sharing the stage.

He said he felt there was a good amount of community support and that the many local musicians that got involved were contributing to the success of the area's music scene and helping to build culture.

"There's a lot of young talent out there," he said, adding many young people are taking a do-it-yourself approach and launching their own concert.

With two stages, one at the band shell and one at the pavilion, there

was a variety of music throughout the afternoon and evening. Many genres were represented and the composition of the talent also varied with everything from full bands to solo artists. The concert began at 2 p.m. and ran until 10 p.m. and included performances by The Autumn Crush, Hunters and Anglers, and Matt Dell Music among others.

Andress estimated several hundred people had passed through the park throughout the afternoon, adding he expected attendance to pick up as the night went on.

see COSTELLO | page 5

■ COSTELLO

Macbeth takes the stage in Port Colborne

FROM PAGE 4

Musicians and music fans were not the only ones who attended the event. Various booths were set up including one from Bridges Community Health Centre who shared their knowledge and charity fundraising group Music For Peace who sold their merchandise. Bridgette Astles was also able to sell their own merchandise and spread the word about their upcoming appearances.

Andress said Rock in the Park is something he could see himself being involved with in the years to come.

"It's fun to do stuff for the community."



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo
The Roselawn Centre garden was transformed into a stage as Driftwood Theatre Company's travelling actors brought their production of Macbeth to the city on July 19.

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GARDEN GETAWAY

Something wicked came this way as locals were treated to a Shakespearean classic last Tuesday.

Driftwood Theatre Group brought their version of Macbeth to the city as part of The Bard's Bus Tour, a summer tradition that sees actors performing across the province each summer from Victoria to William Shakespeare.

Making their first ever Port Colborne appearance, the group performed a pay-what-you-can show for those visiting the Roselawn Centre's garden.

The group partnered with Showboat Festival Theatre,

as they are both companies that perform in the round. The outdoor venue was filled with about 100 theatre lovers who could bring lawn chairs and blankets to the relaxed atmosphere.

Although the sets and costumes remained minimal, sound and lighting added to the experience and helped create the mood.

With a cast of only eight, some actors played multiple roles in Shakespeare's classic tale of a soldier, who with the help of his wife and three witches, rises to power.

Dan Gallo, Driftwood Theatre's front of the house coordinator, said the tour has been going very well and

usually draws a fairly large audience.

"It's something about the nature of Macbeth," he said of what he felt drew people to the play. He feels the gory nature of the production can spark interest in the show.

Driftwood Theatre originated in Oshawa, Ont., before relocating to Toronto and is now in its 17th year. Currently in its third week, The Bard's Bus Tour will continue throughout the summer before concluding on August 14.

If you know of a community event you would like to see featured in this column, e-mail your ideas to lindsaycostello@hotmail.com.



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo

Matt Dell Music performed at Rock in the Park on July 23. The free, outdoor concert, held at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park, ran from 2 to 10 p.m. and saw dozens of local artists sharing two stages.

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■ COMPLAINTS: Residents not happy with road

Golf Course Rd. project par for the course, Wuisman says

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

WAINFLEET — Golf Course Rd. was at a critical stage said the township's director of operations and work carried out recently has extended its life considerably.

Greg Wuisman gave a quick update on the road during Tuesday night's council meeting after Ald. Betty Konc brought up the issue of the road's condition up.

Konc and Mayor April Jeffs said they're still getting calls and e-mails about the road from residents weeks after work resurfacing a two-kilometre stretch of the road was completed.

"It is the topic of much discussion," said Konc.

Wuisman said "when the road was originally being resurfaced, heavy rains caused an emulsion being put down to liquify and



Hessels

bubble. It appeared we might lose a section of the road ... the contractor took the right measures."

Wuisman said some of the emulsion started to wash from the surface and the contractor, Norjohn Contracting and Paving, put down extra stone to absorb it and took steps to ensure it didn't migrate into ditches.

Since that time, the emulsion has started to settle and stabilize, he added.

"The road does have some discoloration due to the stone settling down in the shoulder lane. The road is improving and behaving much like it's expected to," said Wuisman.

Alderman heard the con-



Jeffs

tractor is well aware of concerns the township has around the round and will be back on location within a couple of weeks to make any needed or necessary repairs. The road also had to be repaved.

Wuisman said the contractor is a good one and he's quite happy with the direction the road is taking.

Ald. Ted Hessels, chair of the public works committee, said he can understand why people might be complaining, but added people needed to have patience and let the contractor work.

"This is going to take the road last an extra few years," he said.

Jeffs said residents aren't



Wuisman

satisfied with the work, saying one lane is a different colour. She added it seems like the road is not as wide as it was.

Wuisman said the choke stone that was laid down in the shoulder lane of Golf Course Rd. is a different colour and that's what residents aren't noticing. He said the road is the same width, but added any excess stone, that could make it look like the road wasn't as wide, would be graded and removed from the side.

In response to a question from Konc, he said it cost the township roughly \$40,000 to have the surface treatment of tar and chip done.

Both Konc and Ald. Richard



Konc

Dykstra wondered why the road was being resurfaced with tar and chip and not being replaced with hot mix asphalt.

Wuisman said covering a road that was originally hot mix asphalt with tar and chip was an acceptable practice.

Konc questioned whether there should have been a staff report before the township spent \$40,000 on the work.

Hessels said the treatment of Golf Course Rd. was a maintenance issue, not a capital project.

Wuisman said council approved the resurfacing when it passed the budget earlier this year.

Ald. David Wyatt wondered

If we did hot mix, the road would have to be shaved and paved ... the cost would have been around \$200,000, my entire budget."

Greg Wuisman,
Tribune director of operations

what the cost per kilometre to repave the road with hot mix asphalt would have been.

"If we did hot mix, the road would have to be shaved and paved ... the cost would have been around \$200,000, my entire budget," said Wuisman.

He said resurfacing a road, uncovering up cracks that allow water into the roadway, will extend its life.

"It can give a road an extra eight to 10 years ... and we've seen higher in Wainfleet."

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inPortbriefs

THREATENED AT HOME

WAINFLEET — Police are searching for two suspects in a Wainfleet home invasion that took place early last Friday morning.

Shortly before 5 a.m., Niagara Regional Police responded to a call for assistance on Lakeshore Rd. In

Wainfleet.

Two men had entered a residence brandishing a baseball bat and threatening the home's male occupant.

The victim was not injured during the incident.

"It definitely was not random."

said Det. Sgt. Jay Nesbitt said of the incident. He could not disclose whether the home's occupant was known to the suspects. Police are not releasing the address of the home.

The two suspects are described as white males in their 20s.

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■ COUNCIL: Wainfleet denies request

Couple's retirement home turned down

DAVE JOHNSON
In Port News Staff

Pipe, which would have carried water-sewer lines along the lakeshore, when they bought the cottage.

Truman said they had followed the coverage of the issue, including council's decision to kill the Big Pipe and to put an interim bylaw freezing new development along the lakeshore. She said the couple applied for their change before the interim bylaw was passed recently.

Konc said the pipeline was proposed by the region because of poor planning policies in the past that allowed too many properties to close on each other and not enough lot coverage.

"I'm a little frustrated with residents, not to be disrespectful, who continue to come forward and ask for lot coverage increases and want to build big new homes without letting council do what needs to be done first," said Konc.

She said the town needs to correct problems associated with failing septic systems along the lakeshore and get its inspection program underway.

"I can't support your request in all good conscience," said Konc.

Ald. David Wyatt asked when the Trumans planned to get the work underway and heard they wanted to do it over the summer.

He believed the septic system proposed could be a test model for others along the lakeshore, adding it was something for council to consider.

Ald. Ted Hessels agreed with septic system could be a test model, but said he had a real problem with lot coverage.

"If we let you go with 20% we set a precedent as to what lot coverage could be in the area," said Hessels.

After hearing from the couple, council voted on the application and unanimously turned it down.

I'm a little frustrated with residents, not to be disrespectful, who continue to come forward and ask for lot coverage increases and want to build big new homes without letting council do what needs to be done first."

Wainfleet Ald. Betty Konc



Wyatt

■ SUGGESTIONS: Aldermen give their thoughts

Sewage inspection program introduced

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

WAINFLEET — Septic system inspections in the boil water advisory area of the township could be carried out every three years and inspections could be mandatory where property is transferred from one party to another.

Those were recommendations made Tuesday night after City Wainfleet's director of operations presented a report on the on-site sewage system program, also known as the find, repair, replace program.

"Staff have put a lot of work into this ... it's for information only and to bring you up to speed on where we're at," Wainfleet said council.

One of the proposals presented in the report called for an independent department to be set up outside of the building department, to carry out inspections on septic systems in Wainfleet.

In his report, Wuisman said the proposed program will be phased in through two stages; the first stage will be implemented by 2013, involving and enforcement of Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code (regular permit applications, planning department comments, real estate inspections, and special requests/complaints). In the first stage,

council will basically be taking over duties currently handled by Niagara Region. The second stage will be implementation of a mandatory inspection program. The first stage kicks in this fall and the second stage will kick in next spring.

Wuisman explained to council how septic systems work. He said sewage goes into a tank for treatment before going into a leaching bed. From the leaching bed, it flows through the soil, called a treatment zone, where bacteria break down the waste further and from there it heads into ground water, where it is diluted.

"It's a pretty good system. In Wainfleet we have a major problem in the treatment zone."

In many areas, Wuisman said there is insufficient soil for the sewage to flow through and break down.

"That will be our challenge when we are out there."

There is new technology, council heard, that can be used in between septic tank and leaching bed, and that will be looked into.

When the new department is set up, with new staff to be hired, inspections will be carried in two phases. The first phase is non-intrusive said Wuisman. He said staff will

not open up septic tanks, but will gather information and check out the system.

If a problem or risk is found, a more detailed inspection will be carried out by qualified third parties. Homeowners would be responsible for any repairs.

While there are a few contractors in Wainfleet that could carry out repairs, and others across the region, Wuisman said they would all have to be approved as qualified by the township. It would cost audited costs of their work to be carried out to ensure repairs were being done properly.

Wuisman said township staff had consulted with the Ontario Wastewater Association, region and other agencies when the report was being prepared.

He asked council to give him permission to whether the inspection program should be carried out every three or five years and asked if only the boil water advisory should be inspected or the whole township.

Ald. Richard Dykstra won-

dered why the rest of the township would be targeted while there are no issues involving septic systems.

Wuisman said he would target the problem and first go to houses in progress before we go townships," said Dykstra.

Wuisman agreed with Dykstra, but said he was thinking more long term and of fairness.

We should target the problem area first and see how it progresses before we go township-wide."

Wainfleet Ald. Richard Dykstra

"Is it fair to do just one area?" he asked.

Ald. Ted Hessels said the issue of going township-wide with inspections could be resolved later.

Ald. David Wyatt questioned the impact on staffing for a three- or five-year program.

Wuisman said more staff would be needed for the

three-year program.

Council heard the program would also be revenue generating and there would be no impact on taxpayers. Wages, office supplies, staff expenses would all be recovered through the inspection program.

Ald. Betty Konc said the region and others would be watching the program to see what Wainfleet does.

"We have to do it right," she said.

She asked what would be in regards to educating the public about the program.

Wuisman said the Ontario Wastewater Association would be willing to come down and hold a public information session and township staff could come up with pamphlets and brochures. Those items could tell people about the program and what they should look out for in regards to their septic systems.

"We need to do this now before the seasonal residents go home," said Konc of notifying the public.

Dykstra added Wuisman about compliance with the program.

"How do we get residents to ... what do we have to tell them accountable?" he asked.

Wuisman said the regulating document for the inspection program would be the Ontario Building Code, a

"very powerful document."

As chief building official in the township, Wuisman said people could be fined, taken to court and in extreme circumstances have their occupancy permit for their home revoked.

"There's quite a bit of teeth there to tackle the issue," he said.

Though it wasn't in the report, Dykstra, and other council members said they feel inspections should be mandatory when there's a property transfer. It isn't under the region's current program, though many lending institutions said it will ask for one to be carried out as a condition of a loan.

Scott Luey, Wainfleet's chief administrative officer, said the township would have to investigate whether it had the authority to have mandatory inspections in real estate transactions.

Luey said if the township was allowed to do so a home would not be inspected twice. An inspection would only be needed if the home hadn't yet had one by the township. If a home had already been inspected, that inspection would stand in the change of ownership.

He also said there will be further reports to council on the inspection program and more discussion on the issue.

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■ CANAL DAYS: Finger Eleven playing at Market Square

'We love making songs and we want the whole world to hear it'

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — "Whatever doesn't kill me doesn't make me stronger, but I'm not gonna give up yet. And if these walls should weaken, I'm still strong enough to know I'm going to build them up again."

The lyrics from Finger Eleven's song Whatever Doesn't Kill Me can be used to describe the band's musical evolution.

For the Burlington-based band's latest album, Life Turns Electric, Finger Eleven added another feather in its cap by producing the album on top of its lyrical and musical duties.

The result is a stronger, more rock charged atmosphere, which is a different sound than the album's precursor, 2007's Them Vs. You Vs. Me, which had a more mellow sound to it.

"One thing that's constant in our music is that it's pretty guitar heavy," said guitarist Rick Jakkett in a phone interview from Minneapolis, Minn.

"When we were making our record [Life Turns Electric] we wanted to go back to the stuff we grew up listening to in the '70s. We really listened to the music and the instruments involved. We really put ourselves as songwriters and musicians. We wanted something strong."

Finger Eleven has come a long



Supplied photo

Finger Eleven will be headlining a performance at Market Square in Port Colborne July 30 as part of Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival.

way since its formation in 1989 in high school in Burlington, Ont. Monkley: It's a name that would eventually be changed to Finger Eleven upon the release of its

second album, Tip, but because of the Internet, Jakkett said the band will always be asked about it.

"We were in a battle of the bands and we didn't have a name yet,"

Jakkett said. "A friend had come up with the Rainbow Brite moniker and it stuck. From seven months we went from the event to being signed to a label. In order to be

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To switch to a more balanced diet may be as easy as having well fitted dentures, that allow for improved chewing and grinding function. The ability to better chew fruits, vegetables, meats and nuts will increase your nutrient intake and may decrease your risk of various disease. For more information see your Denturist.

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taken seriously we had to be called something else. Finger Eleven is what we decided to call. It was the best decision we made."

The band has seen its fair share of success with five albums and a slew of hits including One Thing and Paralyzer.

There isn't a place one can visit without hearing one of Finger Eleven's songs. Paralyzer can often be heard at sporting events and is featured in several video games including Guitar Hero and Rock Band.

The song Slow Chemical was used for several years as the theme song for WWE pro-wrestler Kane (Glenn Jacobs).

"We were asked (by WWE) to do the song. Only the beginning riff resembled Kane's old song. We wrote the rest," said Jakkett. "One day we were watching TV and Kane came out to the song and we said, 'Holy s---, that's our song!' It was cool at the point. We were happy with it. We love making songs and we want the whole world to hear it."

The band has been touring the past few months to support its latest record and will be making a stop in Port Colborne to perform July 30 as part of Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival.

Jackson said each venue on the tour has ranged in size from small bars to arenas to large stages. No matter where Finger Eleven performs he said the crowd is always energized and loyal.

"We have a widespread audience," Jackson said. "We love performing in places we've never been to. It's like being in front of a new, excited crowd. We look forward to coming to Port Colborne."

The band will be performing songs from Tip and Paralyzer along with a number of its classics.

Canal Days will present four days of concerts at Market Square from July 29 to Aug. 1. The all-agés concerts are free admission but \$2 to \$5 donations will be accepted at the gate.

On Friday, July 29, Helix will take the stage at 8 p.m. followed by Nazareth at 10 p.m. Saturday, July 29 will bring Bleeker Ridge at 8 p.m., Whale Tooth at 9 p.m. followed by Finger Eleven at 10:30 p.m.

Niagara Music Collective will perform at 8 p.m. on Sunday, July 31.

Sister Act and The Cavengers will perform at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. respectively on Monday, Aug. 1.

*echau@wellandtribune.ca
Twitter: @EdChauTribune*

■ RECREATION

Hefty price tag for Wainfleet Arena's future

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — After reading through the whole recreation master plan document, Ald. David Wyatt told consultant Fred Galloway he was quite impressed.

"It's a great undertaking and Wainfleet will be well-served by it," Wyatt said

recently as the report was presented to township council.

The alderman's only difficulty with the plan was how some of the opportunities expressed in it could be implemented financially.

"There are a lot of opportunities, but opportunities don't come cheap," he said.

Galloway, of management

and planning consultant firm E.J. Galloway Associates Inc., said he tried to show different funding sources for the various options.

One thing he said had to be looked at no matter what is Wainfleet Arena.

While the arena needs at least \$2 million in work over the next number of years,

depending on what council wants to do with the facility, it could cost anywhere between \$7 million and \$9 million to make changes.

"The arena is the hub of recreational activity in Wainfleet," he told council as he presented his report.

In the report, Galloway said the township can look at clos-

ing the arena, especially with declining membership in both hockey and figure skating and multi-pad arenas in neighbouring municipalities being built. It could also look at renewing and expanding the current facility.

"Maybe cut the arena and make it more of a community centre," he said, adding

if the township wants to save money now, it could cut non-prime time hours of operation Monday through Friday.

When putting together the plan, he said residents recognized the tourism potential in various recreation resources in the community.

see RECREATION | page 14



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HORSES: Maria Vrbicek rides out of Big V Farms

Young rider picks up some medals

For InPort News

WAINFLEET — Big V Farm's Maria Vrbicek competed at the Cedar Ridge Jumper Show in Pelham earlier this month and brought home some medals.

She competed on Austin — a Trakehner gelding — bred, owned and trained by her grandfather, Ivan.

The show she competed in consisted of three divisions, with first place in each division: Clear Round, Gamblers' Choice, Table A Speed and a Table Class with a bit of prize money.

Austin steadily improved in the beginner jumper division, taking home a second place ribbon in the jumper stake in the steeple class, which consisted of first round

jump offs against the clock for first place, nine horses made it through the first round.

Maria was the class leader until the last horse beat Austin's time by fractions of a second.

She was the youngest rider in the competition at 10 years of age. Austin has plenty of experience, with years of competing successfully on the National Jumper Circuit acquiring numerous awards including Marshall and Sterling League Reserve Champion in 2003 and 2004 and Trakehner Horse of the Year in 2001 and 2003.

Jim Corbett and his helpful staff run an excellent show in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The footing in the ring and course design was good.



Supplied photo

Maria Vrbicek and Austin, proudly displaying their array of ribbons won at the Bertie Willoughby Saddle Club show on June 19.

For the event, coaches were permitted to be in the ring with their students, a tremendous help for novice horses and riders. Corbett was very considerate and patient with riders having problems getting their mounts over the colourful

jumps, giving horses and riders confidence.

Corbett and Ivan, Maria's grandfather, agreed it is vital training for both horse and rider to leave the ring on a positive note. Riders were encouraged by an enthusiastic and

appreciative crowd of parents and friends.

On Sunday, July 10, Maria, on a different horse, competed at the Camberwell Trillium show, part of the Central West Provincial Circuit. It was Maria's first provincial show

with Austin's half brother Edi.

Again, Maria improved over the three classes offered in the junior/amateur one metre jumper division with a sixth place in the Table A speed and capturing second place in the power and speed class.



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■ MUSIC: Rock in the Park promotes musical talent from Niagara

Free concert has H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park rockin'

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A fledgling rock concert hopes to strike the right chord when it comes to promoting talent in Niagara.

Uber Youth, along with its co-ordinator Rita Smith, and Ben Anders, a young activist and music enthusiast, put on a concert for music fans

13 and older called Rock in the Park on Saturday in H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne.

"It's been good and very successful. The turnout has been really good and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves," Anders said.

Uber Youth started five years ago as a way to give youth something to do and

a place to hang out in Port Colborne. It was modeled on the Rock in the Park at the Club and puts, among other events, concerts and talent shows in the Port Colborne area.

The concert on Saturday featured bands such as Hunters and Anglers, Thousand Young, Autumn Crush and a band from

Calgary, Inner-city Elegance. "The bands are all very talented," Anders said. "There is a lot of really good talent around here who help the community a lot."

Anders said the free concert was a way to give back to the community, give children something to do instead of getting into trouble and create a sense of community among

people and bands.

"A lot of these kids could be on the wrong path if it's way cooler to be here. Having fun and be sort of supervised, it's just great," Anders said.

He also thought the stage in the park should be used more often.

"In a perfect world, we would do this every weekend, the stage is just sitting here.

Someone should be using it," he said.

Bonnie Lidstone, 19, the volunteer for Autumn Crush from St. Catharines, said it was important to support local talent in the community.

"It's good to be involved in the musical community in small towns because there is a lot of great talent and it needs to be supported," she said.

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